

Newly-elected tribal chairman supports city casino

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

*But that time has passed and he is not
opposed to this casino.*

Mayor Alan Lambert

"He said that he believed the other properties in Flint and Monroe should have been looked into further," said Lambert. "But that time has passed and he is not opposed to this casino."

That differs from recent reports that quoted Payment as saying that he did not want the casino in Romulus because it was too close to the Greektown facility.

Regardless of what has been said in the past, Lambert said that the 12-member council made it clear to him that are behind this project.

"Right in front of Payment, the members of the council told me that they make the decisions for the tribe and they are behind the project with or without the support of their new chairman," said Lambert.

Payment was elected to the position of chairman in the June elections for the tribe leadership. It was the first time in almost two decades that a new leader had been chosen in the tribe. Payment beat incumbent Bernard Bouschor—a major proponent of the proposed Romulus casino—in a hard-fought election.

At the same time, six new members of the tribal council were elected, which caused some concern about the status of the Romulus project, but Lambert said all concerns were put to rest last week with the supportive vote.

The proposed \$350 million casino, conference center, golf course and hotel would bring an anticipated 17,500 people to Romulus each day. It would have more than 2,500 slot machines and 90 table games.



Tree tradition

Just because it's summer doesn't mean students aren't making a difference at their schools. Barth Elementary School kindergarteners decided to start their own school tradition this summer by planting a tree at the school entrance. And over at Cory Elementary School, students helped install a pond. Mark Sliwa and Steve Jackson, owners of All About Ponds in New Boston, donated all of the materials including the flagstone, fish and plants. The pond will also feature a waterfall for the new school year.



Police nab suspects in double murder case

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

One female and two males from Monroe County and Inkster were in custody.

Romulus police have four suspects in custody in connection with a double murder that took place early Sunday morning, according to police officials.

The victims, Amanda Zarbaugh, a 20-year-old Romulus resident, and DeShone Moore, a 23-year-old Inkster man, were found shot to death at Zarbaugh's residence on Northline Road in Romulus, after police responded to a shots fired report, said officials.

"The crime still appears to be robbery-motivated with drugs being involved," said Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department.

However, Leacher said that at this point in the investigation, police believe that the victims did not know their assailants.

By Monday afternoon, just 36 hours after discovery of the crime, Romulus police had followed up a number of leads and brought in three suspects, he said.

The fourth suspect, a Detroit man, was arrested at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Romulus police received assistance from the Detroit Police Department in finding and bringing the fourth suspect into custody.

At press time, none of the suspects had been charged in the case, but police said that would most likely happen soon.

"I would think that they will be charged and arraigned sometime this week," said Leacher, "once we have everything together to go to the prosecutor."

The range of the possible charges can be anything from murder in the first degree to robbery charges.

"In something like this, there tend to be a lot of charges that can be filed, because so many different felonies are committed," said Leacher. "That is up to the prosecutor's office."

Leacher said police are continuing to follow leads.

School board elects officers for next year

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus School Board of Education members elected officers for the upcoming school year last week.

Cheryle Buckley was elected as the president of the school board, April Frayer will serve as vice-president, Celeste Roscoe was elected as secretary and Kenneth Mientkiewicz will serve as treasurer.

Buckley has had many leader-

ship roles during her 4 years on the school board, including treasurer, secretary and vice-president the past three years. Frayer, who has also been on the board for 4 years, has served as treasurer and secretary previously.

While Roscoe and Mientkiewicz have both served in the board for the last 3 years, this is their first term of board office.

The board also welcomed newly-elected member Thomas Kuderik to the school board.

Kuderik was elected during the June elections, along with Betty Lenossi, who was re-elected to her third term.

During the special meeting the board also re-adopted many board policies including the board meeting calendar. Meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The board also named National City Bank, Comerica Bank and Bank One as the district depositories.



Romulus Board of Education officers for 2004-2005 include, from left, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, April Frayer, Cheryle Buckley and Celeste Roscoe. They were elected last week.

Arsonists torch building for second time in week

Scott Spielman
Editor

Officials in the City of Wayne said they think the miscreants who started a fire in the old Nankin Hospital last week returned a few days later to finish the job.

The building, located on Michigan Avenue a few blocks west of Wayne Road, was consumed by fire early Saturday morning, according to Wayne Fire Chief Rob Dahlman. The department received the call at about 2 a.m., he said.

"When units arrived, they found fire shooting from the roof," Dahlman said. "We quickly set up a defensive perimeter to save the other building nearby."

That building, which houses the offices of *The Journal Newspapers*, suffered minor water damage, but was left structurally intact.

"That's to be expected when you consider the amount of water we used on it," Dahlman said.

The fire had been well under way before the call came in to the dispatch department, Dahlman said. As they were on the scene, the second floor of the old hospital collapsed into the first and the structure became even more unsteady, he said. The boarded up condition of the building hindered the ability of the firefighters to fight the fire, he added.

"It was very difficult for us to even try to get into the building," he said. "We were trying to keep people out of it. We knew we wouldn't try to send anyone inside because there was a good possibility they'd get hurt."

"The walls were in terrible shape," he added. "We couldn't

get anywhere near the thing. We didn't want to get anyone too close."

"We had to get some trucks from the Department of Public Works out to take down some of the walls."

Dahlman said there were 15 firefighters battling the blaze, including some support units from the City of Westland. He estimated that they used about 200,000 gallons of water, although a final tally hadn't been completed Tuesday morning.

When units arrived, they found fire shooting from the roof. We quickly set up a defensive perimeter to save the other building nearby.
Wayne Fire Chief Rob Dahlman

"We know we had about 2 feet of water in the basement," Dahlman said.

It was the second time in a week that the department was called to the building, which has been vacant for about 4 years. Two other fires had been set there in the early morning hours of July 13. Investigators quickly surmised that they were the work of arsonists. The Saturday morning fires were, too, Dahlman said.

"Our main thing right now is that we need the help of the public to help find who did this," Dahlman said. "It is an arson fire."

The building itself has long concerned officials in the City of

Wayne, who have fought to have the building either cleaned up and brought up to code or torn down.

Since the place has been visited by arsonists twice in one week, city officials are even more keen to have the unsafe building razed.

"That was not an option," said City Councilman Don Hartford about the possibility of leaving it as a target for future ne'er-do-wells. "It's still unsafe. There's not a chance that that could stay up."

The city has torn down the bulk of the original structure, but the efforts have stalled there, because they can't locate Kiu Liu, the man who allegedly owns the property.

"We're trying to get in contact with him," Dahlman said. "He's very difficult to get a hold of."

He said he would still recommend the entire structure be torn down, because it represents a safety hazard and a target for vandals and other criminals.

"I still believe it's an imminent danger," Dahlman said. "It's a dilapidated building. We're trying to use all the power we have to correct the problem as quickly as possible."

Dahlman also wanted to pass along thanks to the Westland Fire Department, the DPW department and to Winchell's Donuts, which is located across the street from the fire scene. They provided refreshments to firefighters as they battled the blaze through the night.



Wayne and Westland firefighters responded to the Michigan Avenue scene at 2 a.m. Saturday morning to find flames shooting through the roof of the old Nankin Hospital. Journal photo by Sean Rhaesa

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It took firefighters well into the next day to put out stubborn hot spots that still smoldered through the night. Journal photo by Sean Rhaesa



Firefighters worked first to contain the blaze, and then the potential hazards in the building, until it can be demolished. Journal photo by David J. Willett

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Romulus Elementary School enjoyed the Parents as Educational Partners Appreciation dinner at the Gateway Golf Club this summer. Parents who consistently participate in school activities are rewarded for their contribution with the annual dinner.

Parent participation makes a difference

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus Elementary School students, parents and administrators made this year one of the best, according to principal Lynne Mossoian.

Most noteworthy was the impressive Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores in only its third year.

"This was our best showing so far and shows what can be accomplished when we all work together," said Mossoian.

Romulus Elementary beat the state averages on each of the six elementary school MEAP tests, she said. There were also many other activities and programs that happened this year at the school.

She implemented new parent recognition dinners at the Romulus Hilton Inn and Gateway Golf Club this year in an effort to honor parents who went the extra mile for their children and the school. Parents were involved in such activities as going to parent-teacher conferences, open house programs and signing off on their children's homework and reading log.

Parents were also asked to attend parent workshops, science and math nights, participate on parent committees or do volunteer work for classrooms and the library.

The recognition dinners were very popular among the parents, who attended them in large numbers. Ed Clark, the human resources director and School Superintendent Joel Carr served as guest speakers at the dinner functions.

Mossoian was also proud of the type of inspirational assemblies that took place throughout the school year, including one that featured Channel 4 News anchor Devin Scillian talking to students about life experiences.

Another improvement at Romulus Elementary this year was the Monday morning assemblies for all students.

"That's where we try to put everything else behind us and get ready for a meaningful week of school," said Mossoian. "Our Monday morning assemblies are designed to inspire students to do their best. We also recognize students for their academic and out of school achievements."

Mossoian said this format has encouraged Romulus Elementary School students to excel in their school work and has resulted in a large number of students on the all "A" and regular honor rolls throughout the school year.

She said the staff members and support personnel for their outstanding efforts during the school year. Staff members developed workshops on a number of timely topics that helped parents develop student achievement strategies.

"Our staff members were involved with various committees that further enhanced student achievement and they often gave extra time to attend evening school functions," said Mossoian.

Mossoian was further impressed by what she referred to as the warm, giving spirit shown by the community. The Parents as Educational "It is really wonderful to work with students, staff, parents and a community that is so supportive of our school," said Mossoian.

Artists take works to streets in August

Adrea King
Staff Writer

Artists will soon invade Belleville and take their works to the streets.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA) will host the annual Belleville Art Colony from 4 until 8 p.m. every Friday in August. The event will take place at Fourth Street Square on Main Street and Fourth Street in downtown Belleville.

This year, the event will include area artists Jane Kovach of Belleville, Sandra and Sarah Meyer of Belleville, Sandra Somers of New Boston, Rhonda Dutton of Belleville and Dave Hume of Romulus, along with others.

Belleville and the Central Business Community along with the Arts Council, developed, sponsored and co-managed the first Belleville Art Colony in 1997. The concept of an "Artist in Residence" brought professional artists to the city to demonstrate and encourage other artists to join in their efforts. The Art Colony began in August 1997 with artists in attendance every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday of the month, according to the group.

"When it first began, it took place in all three Belleville parks," said Janet Millard, organizer of the event.

The central group of artists participating in the Belleville Art Colony will be professionals who have been selected to help with their example and their expertise. The professional artists will be designated as "Artist in Residence," according to Lianne Clair, member of the BACA.

"Local and area artists will be painting and drawing on site and available to discuss their various mediums of art," she said. "People can see artists at their easels painting portraits, landscapes, sunsets, flowers and abstracts. You can also purchase art directly from the artist."

Kovach has lived in the area

for more than 50 years. She is also one of the original founders of the Art Colony, and just recently had an endowment in her name.

Now retired, Kovach continues to make her contribution to the community by volunteering at the schools and teaching art classes. Currently, she teaches at the Visteon family center and remains active in the BACA and the Art Colony.

During the event, Kovach will create her art pieces using watercolor. She said that she is still considering what exactly she will create.

"The theme is 10 different things around Belleville, mostly involving the city heritage," she said. "Horizon Park, the Victorian house, Hillside Cemetery, Main Street and the Belleville Bridge will all be possibilities."

Sandra and Sarah Meyer will use acrylic, oil and watercolor to create their artwork.

Sandra Meyer, who will take part in the Art Colony for a second year, said she is inspired by nature, her grandchildren and things around her. She said she began painting when she was 13 years old.

"My grandmother gave me a paint-by-numbers kit and instead of using the numbers I throw them away, kept the paint, and went to work," she said. "Ever since then I have been painting. Although I don't do it for a living, I wish that I could."

Last year one of her pieces placed third. She will be at the colony all four days this year in hopes of winning another prize.

Somers has an extensive art background and is a professional artist. She is a primitive painter who always incorporates a season into her themes.

"I'm inspired by people, historic buildings and things that are simple," she said. "I have done barns on Savage Road and things that are historically correct. Preservation is a big interest to me."

Community pool offers fun, safe way to cool off

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus residents looking for a break from the hot and humid July weather need look no further than in their own community, according to Romulus school officials.

The Romulus Community Pool, located at Romulus High School, is open for residents and non-residents throughout the summer months.

Residents can participate in swimming lessons and water aerobics, as well as take advantage of the free swim opportunities each week.

There are two separate pools in the complex, an instructional pool

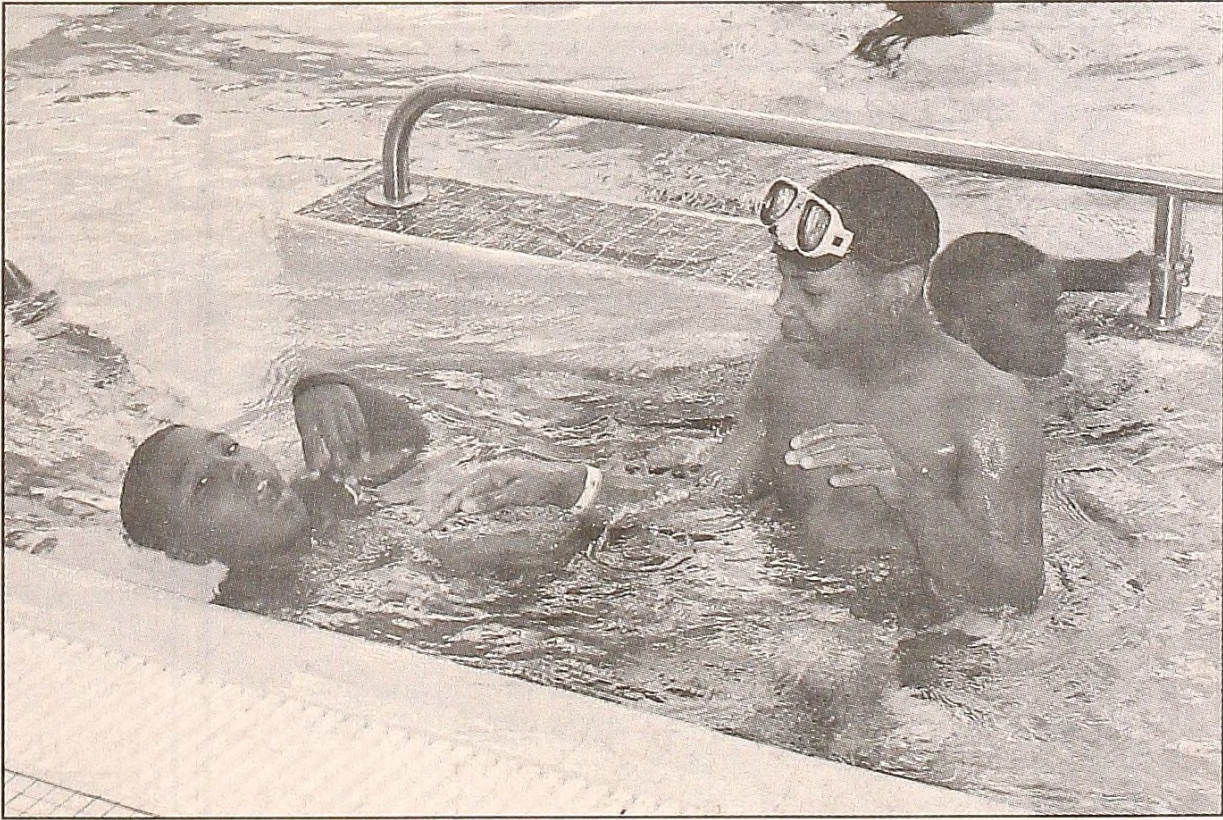
for lessons and smaller children and a competitive pool for swimming laps or just relaxing in the cool water.

The pool can also be rented for parties of five or more with 48 hours notice. The complex requires a 2-week notice for parties larger than 25.

For a \$3 fee, walk-ins can swim for 2 ½ hours during the open swim hours of the facility, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 6 – 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

The pool, which is 3 years old, was built as part of a bond issue in 1995.

For more information on hours or for resident and non-resident pass information call 734 532-1000.



Children involved in the Romulus Recreation Department summer program took a break from the heat this week and cooled off in the Romulus Community Pool at Romulus High School.

Golf outing planned to fund playground equipment

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Elwell Elementary School and Belleville Chiropractic Wellness Clinic representatives are hoping some adult recreation will help fund playground equipment for area children.

Clinic employees are hosting a golf scramble to generate funds for new school playground equipment.

The event will take place Sept. 19 at the Fox Hill Country Club, 8768 North Territorial in Plymouth. Registration begins at noon and golfing will begin with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Donations made will include: lunch at the turn of the tournament, non-alcoholic beverages on the course, chipping, closest to the pin and longest drive contests, prizes, raffles, a 50/50 drawing and a steak dinner. Dinner for non-golfers will be available at 6 p.m.

Julie Sisk, event coordinator from Belleville Chiropractic Wellness Center, said that the center employees would like to assist the school to generate \$30,000 to finish the entire playground project.

"It's part of our job to help make the community a better place," she said.

"We are not worried about not being able to reach our goal. Once we set a goal, we are very intent on reaching it.

"We usually do something for Elwell every year," she added. "Last year we helped out their accelerated reader program. This year, we wanted to do something that the whole community could be a part of."

The school has generated enough money for the first phase of the project, but now needs help with the second phase. Previous school fundraising efforts were organized by the Elwell Parent Teacher Organi-

”

Last year we helped out their accelerated reader program. This year, we wanted to do something that the whole community could be part of.

Julie Sisk

zation (PTO) including the Three Men and a Tenor concert in March.

According to Elwell principal Karen Mida, the PTO has been working on generating funds for the school playground for more than 5 years.

"We are really excited that Belleville Chiropractic has offered to adopt us," she said. "They are a very giving group, that has offered to take us under their wing."

The equipment at Elwell playground became rusted over and worn out and had to be removed

because of safety concerns, she said.

"For over 40 years our students and many of the children in the community have used the playground equipment at Elwell School and now it is worn out," said Mida.

"Playground equipment costs anywhere from \$40,000-\$80,000, so we had to continue raising funds."

Sisk said that there are sponsorship opportunities available, including sponsors for golf holes.

Elwell is also looking for volunteers to help build the playground Aug. 6 and 7 before the next school year, said Mida.

For more information, to sponsor, or to donate, call 734-697-3210 or visit bellechiro@ameritech.net. Donations can also be made to: Belleville Chiropractic Wellness Clinic, 10800 Belleville Road, 48111.

Conservation club elects first woman president

The Michigan United Conservation Club (MUCC) recently elected Fran Yeager as the first woman president. Yeager has served as the vice-president of the group for two years before being chosen for the top office.

The MUCC takes an active role in preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species, particularly in the Belleville Lake area. An aquatic nuisance is a waterborn, non-native entity that threatens the

diversity and abundance of native species.

The MUCC is working on increasing regulations to control the problem by launching a new campaign to educate the public about the right way to clean boats and equipment to prevent spreading the nuisance species. Ships are the common cause of introducing or spreading the species through ballast water, according to scientific studies.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

In compliance with State Election Law 168 Section 798, a Public Hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, July 28, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI, for the purpose of certifying the program to be used in the counting device which will be utilized to process voter ballots in the Tuesday, August 3, 2004 Primary Election. Said meeting is open to the public and any concerned citizen may attend.

The Charter Township of Van Buren will provide, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations with advance notice to the Clerk's Office, 734.699.8909.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: July 22, 2004

Charter Township of Van Buren BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED SERVICES

The Charter Township of Van Buren will be accepting sealed bids for recreational trails construction and related services. The project entails construction of a recreational trail and site amenities at the Visteon Village Site off of Ecorse Road. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "Visteon Recreational Trails" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 AM EST on Monday, August 2, 2004 and will be publicly opened following the deadline.

There will be a pre-bid meeting and site visit on Monday, July 26, 2004, at 10:00 AM. Specifications and plans may be obtained from the Clerk's Office during normal business hours starting July 8, 2004. This project is partially funded with a federal grant and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation is required. For more information you may call (734) 699-8913.

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township also reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid.

Publish: July 8, 2004
July 15, 2004
July 22, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 3, 2004

In accordance with Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of 1954 Section 168.653 (a), notice is hereby given to the registered voters of the Charter Township of Van Buren that a Primary Election will be held TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004.

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST.
Polling place locations for Van Buren Township:

Precinct #1	Fire Station #1	1304th St.
Precinct #2	Fire Station #2	45581 Ecorse Rd.
Precinct #3	Tyler School	42200 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #4	Belleville High Auditorium	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #5	South Middle School	45201 Owen St.
Precinct #6	Belleville High Auditorium	501 W. Columbia
Precinct #7	Van Buren Township Hall	46425 Tyler Rd.
Precinct #8	North Middle School	47097 McBride
Precinct #9	Haggerty School 13770	Haggerty Rd.

Candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon:

Representative in Congress
State Representative
Prosecuting Attorney
County Clerk
County Treasurer
Register of Deeds
County Commissioner
Judge of the Circuit Court Non-Incumbent Position - Vote 1

And in Township
Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Trustees

COUNTY PROPOSALS
PROPOSAL Q
Ballot Advisory Questions
PROPOSAL R
Removal of Commissioner for Cause

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 734-699-8909. Deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the August 3, 2004 Primary Election is Saturday, July 31, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Township Clerk's Office.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: July 22, 2004
July 29, 2004

OPINION

Our choices are:

Voters will face a crowded field of candidates in several places when they go to the polls for the Aug. 3 primary election.

In Plymouth Township, 11 candidates seek four open trustee spots and there are two candidates vying for each of the full-time elected positions.

In Canton Township, the full-time elected officials are running unopposed, barring a write-in campaign, but there are 10 candidates seeking four open trustee spots.

In Van Buren Township, seven seek four trustee spots and all the full-time elected positions are contested, as well.

It could be a very interesting election in all of those communities.

It's difficult to encapsulate all endorsements into one editorial, so we will attempt to make our choices in installments.

Plymouth Township

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees will have a different look next year. Steve Mann, the current supervisor, is not seeking re-election to that office, deciding instead to pursue a legal career. He is a candidate for the part-time trustee post, though. Ron Griffith, a long-time trustee, has moved out of the community, leaving an open seat, as well. It's a perfect opportunity for a mixture of new faces to gain experience with veteran board members.

The four Republican candidates we'd like to see on the November ballot are **Mann**, incumbents **Kay Arnold** and **Chuck Curmi** and **Dennis Cebulski**, the current chair of the planning commission.

Mann served one term as supervisor, and during that time, a lot was accomplished. Much of it had been in the discussion phases for years, but he was the person to help propel it to fruition. We think he's earned his spot on the board for that. His legal knowledge will be a boon to the board, too.

Arnold has served 12 years on the board, and provides an experienced point of view as well as the ability to keep a steady head. She represents the best interests of the community well.

Curmi has played an important role on the board for the past 12 years. He's the most likely to speak up and question issues and he will push and push until he gets his point across. He's a little acerbic to those who don't know him well, but dedicated to those who do.

It's hard to call Cebulski a newcomer to the political scene - he's served on the planning commission for more than a decade. During that time he's exercised sound judgment and maintained an open mind, which is exactly what you look for in a local, elected official.

Van Buren Township

There are good things going on in Van Buren Township. Major developments are heading that way and the elected officials there are doing a good job in their attempts to stay ahead of it and properly plan for it. That's why we like all the incumbents for the trustee positions there. Voters should send **John Herman**, **Jeffery Jahr**, **Walter Rochowiak** and **Philip Hart** back to serve another four years.

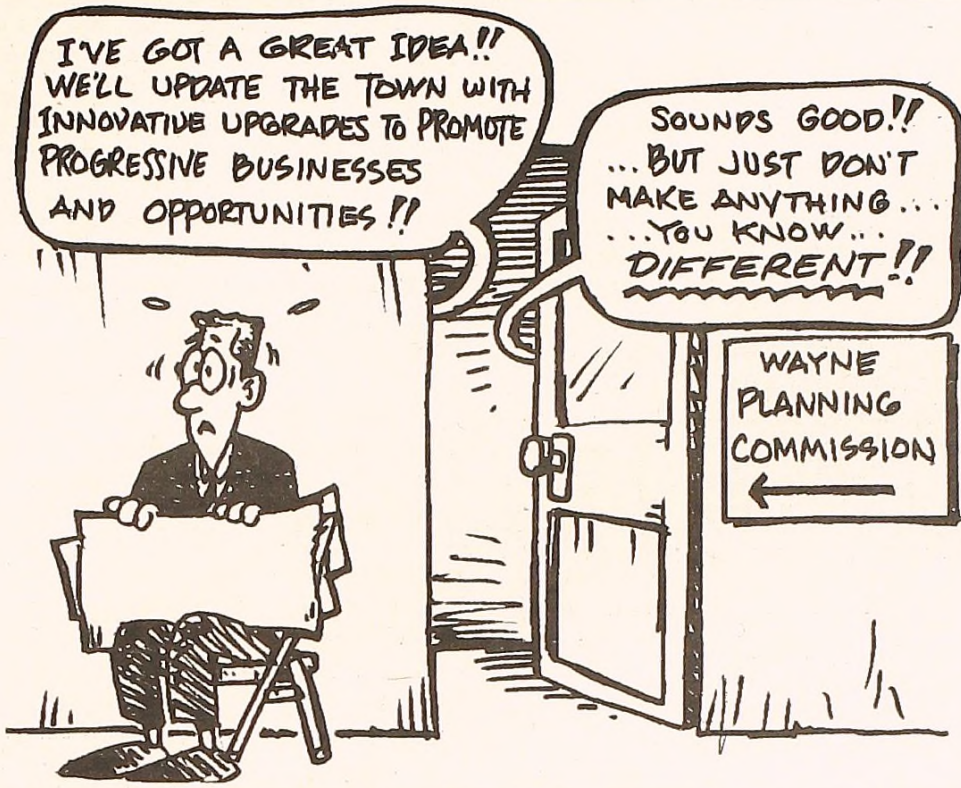
Herman would be serving his third term on the board. A resident of 21 years, he's done a good job so far. The board will benefit from his experience.

Jahr, who would be serving his second term if elected, has plenty of related experience that has so far served him well. A former employee of the City of Westland, he's served on the zoning board of appeals, the environmental commission and is active in arts groups. It shows he has a broad base of interests and is active in a variety of different types of activities. We like people like that.

Hart is another easy choice. He is a people person, dedicated to the township. He also wears many hats in the community right down to the presidency of his homeowner's association.

Rochowiak is a life-long resident of the township and deserves a fifth term on the board. The community has changed in the 16 years

See **Choices**, page 6



It takes pride for progress

Anyone in the City of Wayne will probably tell you that it won't be easy to turn around the image of the city.

There are just too many used car lots, dilapidated houses, creaky hotels and other underutilized properties along the main roads to make it feasible to make any speedy transformations in the city.

Progress has been made, but it will still be a long process, made even slower because sometimes the people who can push for the types of change necessary...don't.

The Wayne Planning Commission, for example, had a perfect opportunity last week to make a minor change that could spark additional improvements.

They discussed a new oil change facility that is going to be constructed along Michigan Avenue. It will be located just east of the railroad viaduct and back up to the Rouge River.

I know, you're probably thinking: just what we need. But the building looks nice, and it's certainly an upgrade over the vacant lot that is there now. It looks good, it meets all the requirements, the zoning is proper, so on it goes.

Except Commissioner Kurt

Kuban made a suggestion that the commission include, as a requirement for the approval, the construction of some type of screening at the back of the property. He's concerned with conservation type issues, and gets angered when he sees illegal dumping taking place in the city.

During his annual attempts to clean up the river and during canoe trips down it, he's seen the evidence of that type of dumping at many other area businesses. The property may be a target for that type of activity, as the nearby properties were and a screen of some type would help alleviate the idea.

It's a good idea, and it's exactly what a planning commission is supposed to do. They can't fix every problem in the city, but they can make suggestions and have an impact on the new projects and gradually, everything gets a little better, right?

Except nobody liked the idea. The motion nearly died for lack of support until Chairperson Bernice Millar seconded it. After she did, it died on a 3-2 vote with no explanation from those who opposed the simple idea.

Before the vote, one commissioner said they would still have a problem with the issue,

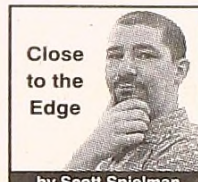
because there weren't any types of screen on the properties on either side of the new development.

That's not really the point, though. Obviously, you can't make an existing property owner do something new. But you can tell an incoming developer that the city is trying to clean up issues like this, and make the case that it would be better for both parties if the screening wall were installed. I mean, what property owner wants someone coming onto their property, illegally dumping things?

Kuban never mentioned what type of screen he would have liked to see there. It could have been anything from a tasteful fence, to a row of trees, decorative brick - in short, anything that would look better than some discarded tires.

Maybe there's some kind of reluctance on the part of the commission to try to push the envelope, to get developers to do more than just a bargain basement plans. To me, it comes back to pride and confidence. We should push that pride in the

See **Pride**, page 6



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Exercise is where you find it

I'm always on the lookout for tips on better health. They're everywhere lately. For instance, the following "Make Time for Fitness" tips flashed across the Pacific Bell Park scoreboard between innings at a recent San Francisco Giants game.

Park two walks away - Park your car far enough away from your job, the mall or even the ballpark to get in a good walk when you arrive and another when you leave.

While you're in the swing - While there, walk for 20 minutes (or for 10 minutes twice) without stopping, throw in a bit of stair

climbing and you will have invested at least a half-hour toward better health.

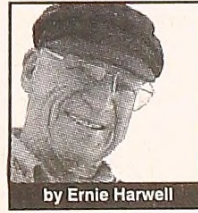
When you reach home - Instead of sitting down when you return home, take just one more brisk 10-minute walk and you're on your way to a healthier tomorrow.

The U.S. Surgeon General says we can all stay fit with just 30 minutes of moderate exercise cumulative each day. I think it's worth it to get out there and walk.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the

Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

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The 'Ugly American' starts very young

Move over Gen-Xers there's a new group ready to take over the title as the slacker generation in America. Let me introduce Generation X-Box.

What I'm about to say isn't a new phenomenon in American culture and I only say it because I have witnessed it firsthand and finally came to the realization that Americans are, in fact, lazy.

Here's the brick that knocked some sense into my thick skull:

It's not uncommon anymore to drive through a subdivision and notice youngsters traveling at high velocity down the street or sidewalk on the back of a motorized scooter. I'm sure it's fun but I've seen kids do it while talking on cell phones—I'm talking about 10 and 11-year-olds here—and usually without helmets, but I guess that's a different issue.

Mystified by this new trend, I decided to study it a little closer in my own neighborhood. The kicker was when I watched the kids leave their houses and ride

their scooter, a mere two blocks, to the McDonalds on the corner. I was astounded. I later watched as they clambered back onto their motorized laziness while they juggled a happy meal and a cell phone back home.

I guess I shouldn't be too surprised, but what ever happened to peddling a bike and eating peanut butter and jelly (not at the same time, of course)?

Granted, PB&J isn't the most nutritious meal but it has to better than the artery clogging and obesity-sustaining fast food. Plus, you could make it yourself. My point is; what is the point? We have, what appear to be, perfectly healthy children riding motorized vehicles two blocks to stuff their faces with greasy goodness. No wonder that obesity is quickly climbing the list of top killers in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), physical inactivity and being overweight account for more than 300,000 premature deaths in the United

states, second only to tobacco-related deaths.

I never thought that I would be one of those 'when I was younger' people but here I go:

When I was younger I spent five days a week practicing the martial arts, probably the best exercise on the planet (except for swimming). I did it for 15 years. And when I wasn't kicking butt I was kicking a soccer ball or playing football, baseball or basketball. If I wasn't doing any of those things, I was riding a bike, skateboarding, running or walking someplace. Basically, if there weren't eminent thunderstorms or threats of tornadoes, I was somewhere outside doing something—something I don't see too often these days.

This past holiday weekend was a perfect example. The beautiful weather was ideal for all sorts of outdoor activities. However, I lost track of the countless empty tennis and basketball courts, the vacant baseball, softball and soccer fields,

and the bare school playgrounds. Whatever, happened to the good old pick-up game—gathering families and friends for a day of sport-filled fun. No leagues needed. No referees needed, just good old-fashioned physical fun. That's something else I don't see too often these days.

Today, kids have X-Box, Play Station, Nintendo and Internet gaming to convince their minds that they are doing something while their bodies remain inert. Sure you have supporters of the videogame—it creates hand-eye coordination, they say. But while children's coordination increases so does their girth. I'm a firm believer that the best way to gain coordination is to actually hit a ball with a bat or connect your foot with a soccer ball.

The real question is: who's to blame? Who buys all these objects of laziness for their kids? Better yet, who is in control of their children's everyday activities?

The other disturbing incident I witnessed this beautiful weekend was at a local Starbucks Coffee. I zipped in real quick and noticed a young kid, maybe 6-years-old lying on a bench, half asleep, while his father talked on his cell phone. I looked outside as the sun shined through the window and wondered why a perfectly healthy young boy was cooped up in a trendy coffeehouse and not outside playing on a wonderful day.

I'm not saying that Lazy America is the fault or responsibility of parents but maybe they should take some initiative. Although kids may be learning the important skill of multitasking, I don't think riding a scooter while talking on a cell phone on their way to McDonalds to get snacks to stuff their bellies with in between playing John Madden Football games on the X-Box is going to thin the growing problem in today's lazy America.



From the cheap seats
by Jeff Novak

Choices

FROM PAGE 5

and it will continue to change and we think that historical perspective will be invaluable.

Canton Township

The Board of Trustees in Canton Township could use some new blood. Things have progressed well there – the community has grappled with an unprecedented growth spurt about as well as any resident could ask for. Even so, we'd like to see a few new faces, even if one of them has a familiar name. Voters should select incumbents **Melissa McLaughlin** and **Karl Zarbo** to return, and send **Fred Bolden** and **Todd LaJoy** to the board.

McLaughlin is an easy choice. She's active in so many different areas that her knowledge of the township, its past and potential future, is a valuable resource. As a board member, she also brings knowledge of the planning commission, the Downtown Development Authority and the historic commission to her seat.

Zarbo has been on the board a relatively short time – he took over for Phil LaJoy when he was elected to Lansing 2 years ago. During that time he's shown the

same practical decision making abilities that made him such a valuable asset to the planning commission. His passion about the township will serve him well.

Bolden has been a bright spot in the township, too. He hasn't served in an elected office before, but he's been involved with the Parent Teacher Organization, the performing arts development committee, the diversity leadership commission—not to mention heading up the Liberty Fest Parade for the last 3 years. He'll also bring diversity and experience to the board.

LaJoy, who would be the youngest member of the board, has shown an interest in following in his father's footsteps. We like that he's been active in the community at such a young age — he has been involved in the Canton Chamber of Commerce for the past several years and is currently the elected president. We like that youthful approach and it certainly can't hurt having a father-son connection in Lansing.

Elected officials at the local level will most likely make the decisions that are most important to every day residents, so these are important choices. So is the decision to go out and vote. Remember your responsibility and privilege on Aug. 3.

Pride

FROM PAGE 5

community on anyone who wants to develop here. Do they want to bring a business into town because the community itself is a good place to do business, or because they get a lot of exposure in drive-by traffic and they don't have to put a lot of money into the finer points of their projects, because the city won't force them to?

I should clarify this a bit.

Kuban is a friend of mine, and it may look like I'm just lashing out at the people who snubbed him. That's not the case, though. I'd be making this point no matter who it was that tried to make these kinds of improvements and was inexplicably shot down.

It seems to be a developing problem within the city. There is a new group of citizens interested in fostering a period of revitalization in the city. They make suggestions, throw out ideas, but they're sometimes received as an accusation that the people already on the scene aren't doing

their jobs. That's not the case. We should welcome new ideas, not be threatened by them.

Fortunately, Councilman Don Hartford solved the immediate problem. He asked the developer at the council meeting Tuesday night if he would put up such a screen, and he agreed, just like that.

Maybe that small request, that unhesitating response, will help point out that it's OK to ask people who want to do business in Wayne for something extra. Maybe it will help them take as much pride in the city as we do.

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OBITUARIES

SUSTERKA, Betty Sue
Betty Sue Susterka, 75, of Belleville, died July 14.
Among her survivors are her children, Cindy (Frank) Hayes of Belleville, Brad (Barbara) Susterka of Milan and Barry (Nancy) Susterka of Ada, and nine grandchildren.
Mrs. Susterka was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Belleville and volunteered with the Red Cross.
Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

BLEVINS, Bonita
Bonita Blevins, 58, of Ypsilanti, died July 14.
Among her survivors are her ex-husband, Emmett W. Sewell of Ypsilanti; children, Jonda Rae Sewell of Florida, Melissa Smith of Georgia, Brian Sewell of Macomb and Patricia Sewell of Ypsilanti; brothers, Julius Blevins of Florida, Quinton (Angela) Collins and Carl Ray Blevins, all of Ypsilanti, Jenny Collins of Michigan and Linda Blevins of Ypsilanti, and five grandchildren, Jacob Sewell, Jonathan and Joseph Stamper, and Nicholas and Troy Dekarski.
Mrs. Blevins was a member of the Ypsilanti Old Regular Baptist Church where funeral services took place with Brother Gene Johnson officiating.

Interment was at Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti.
Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

RILEY, Nicholas
Nicholas G. Riley, 61, of Flat Rock, died July 16.
Among his survivors are his wife, Donna Riley; children, Michael, Kenneth and Kathleen (Steve) Kemnitz; three sisters; one brother, and five grandsons.
Funeral services were at St. Roch Catholic Church in Flat Rock.
Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

Arrangements were entrusted to Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Huron Township.

THOMAS, Thomas E. “Tommy”
Thomas E. Thomas, 31, of Monroe, formerly of Wayne, died recently.
Among his survivors are his wife, Lisa; his father, William Thomas; a brother, Michael Thomas; sisters, Christina and Sarah, and his grandparents Ernie and Agnes Leasure.
Funeral services were at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home with the Rev. David Dahlbergh officiating.
Interment was at Parkview Memorial Park in Livonia.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JULY 6, 2004 IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL,
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Pro Tem Debbie Romak.

Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.
Excused: Randolph Gear, Mayor Pro Tem (Military Duty).

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

Motion by Miller, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-304

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held June 28, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-305

3. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to authorize a no fee permit to be issued to the Romulus High School for their Annual Homecoming Parade on October 1, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-306

4A. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to concur with Attorney Barry Seifman’s recommendation and accept the “Memorandum of Understanding”, (POLC) and to further authorize the Bargaining Committee to proceed as requested.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-307

4B. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Shirley Laskaska.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to accept the Chairman’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

5A. Homeland Security Grant Presentation - No Action Required.

04-308

5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05- 1 to appropriate additional funds for the replacement of a K-9, training and related materials.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDED	AMENDED BUDGET
State Forfeiture				
Expenditures				
268-3720-738.80-10	Capital Outlay	25,000	9,000	34,000
Fund Balance-Un restricted				
State Forfeiture Fund	AVAILABLE	APPROPRIATE	BALANCE	
	212,574	9,000	203,574	

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-309

5C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Public Safety Director, Charles Kirby and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a maintenance agreement with Core Technology.

Roll Call vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-310

6A1 . Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 03/04-49 and 03/04-50, introduced at the Council meeting held June 28,2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-311

6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller to reschedule the public hearing for the grant application to fund expansion of the Romulus Historic Park from July 6, 2004 to July 26, 2004 at 6:15 p.m., to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-312

8A. Motion by Miller, supported by Crova to rescind resolution 04-293 adopted June 28, 2004.

Resolution 04-293:

Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to concur with the administration and adopt a resolution adopting the Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements and designating Carl Brooks, DPW Director, as authorized project representative for installation of sanitary sewer on Merriman Road, Eureka to Pennsylvania.
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - Crova. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote On Resolution 04-312: Ayes- Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak.
Nays - Burcroff, Wadsworth. Motion Carried.

04-313

8B. Motion by Crova, supported by Miller to request the Aminstration to compile a list of residential areas which would derive the greatest benefit from installation of Sanitary Sewers, and to and to designate DPW Director, Carl Brooks as the authornized project representative for installation of Sanitary Sewers.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held July 06 2004.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: July 22, 2004

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING!

THE SCENE



Reviewed By
Valerie Betke
Staff Writer

Blend science fiction, comic riffs and action adventure and produce

I, ROBOT

I, Robot dazzled viewers during the opening weekend with futuristic cars, skyscrapers, and robots with human faces.

The movie takes place in Chicago in the year 2035, where robots are working in every imaginable field. It appears they are on the verge of taking over the world.

The robots are dubbed NS5s, the label for the particular model currently on the market. The machines are designed and manufactured to look and act like humans. They have a superficial effect, and are basically designed to do things easier, faster, and better than humans.

Detective Del Spooner, (Will Smith), is a hasty cop with a bad attitude that just does not stop when it comes to the robots. He is suspicious of them, and waits for one of the machines to violate one of the three laws that were designed to keep robots from hurting humans.

The conflict arises when Spooner gets a call that the creator of the robots, Dr. Lanning (James Cromwell) supposedly committed suicide inside the U.S. Robotics Corp.

See **ROBOT**, page 10

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THE SCENE

Novel probes monstrous divorce wars

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Book Review
Blind Baseball:
A Father's War
A. Green

Blind Baseball: A Father's War should be required reading for all men, husbands and fathers as a point of reference for what could and, most likely, will happen in the event of the most vile form of family war—divorce.

In *Blind Baseball*, a term not revealed until the end of the read, Ypsilanti author A. Green takes readers on a vivid and unforgettable ride through the monstrous divorce of Barry and Sally (Sal) Ballinger. Divorce is no easy task, mentally, spiritually, financially or legally. In a system that pretends to offer equal opportunity for both parties involved, the divorce process is only a formality that leads to the wife gaining money, property and custody, as depicted in *Blind Baseball*. Green offers explicit detail of the legal maze that men are required to maneuver through blindly with many of the avenues leading to mere dead ends.

The story, that takes place

between Berlin and Ann Arbor, in the early 1980s, starts when narrator and hero, Barry, receives his summons for divorce from his tenacious "idiot savant" wife, Sal. It appears, at first, to be nothing new for Barry and nothing more than cry for attention by Sal. We learn that this was the second divorce filed by Sal and Barry has suffered through several previous separations due to her adulterous behavior. Each time, though, they have reconciled and moved on and each time they added a new offspring, six in all. And in the end it's the children that suffer the most.

The children are actually the catalysts that spark the explosion and destroy an American family. A system that is supposed to grant equal custody rights to the father is twisted and turned and basically ignored from top to bottom as

Barry fights to save his businesses, his sanity and his family. "She can assert anything and I'm guilty until I can prove I'm innocent," Barry said. That is the uphill battle that he fights. As Green writes later, "the world has been turned upside down."

Barry's world is not only turned upside down but inside out as he strives to meet the incredible demands set forth by the courts and the irreversible, mental and financial, damage caused by Sal's personal assault on him.

Sal lies about Barry's ability as a father, purposefully ruins his credit, systematically destroys his business and attempts to turn his own children against him. In the long run she succeeds. She calls him a religious fanatic because of his association with the Spirit of God Church and helps him get committed into St. Mary's psychiatric ward because of it. Barry loses everything except, surpris-

ingly, his sanity and his hopes to retain custody of his children.

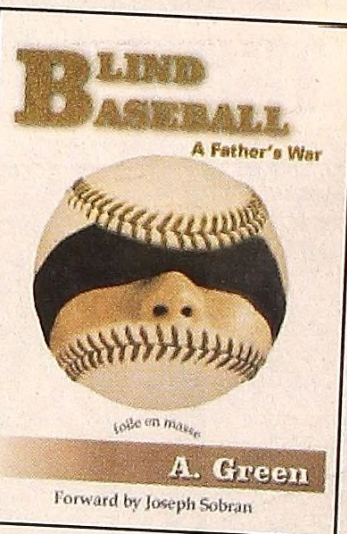
Despite her blatant perjury and adultery, Sal manipulates a system that not only is weighted in her favor but also dismisses all of her infidelities while Barry loses everything.

However, in the end, Sal's lies prove more ruinous and self-destructive as the court system realizes, unremorsefully, that they were wrong and Barry was right.

Barry is a lovable and memorable character who is agonized and consistently punished by the system for only wanting to take care of his children. He is unlucky in every possible way but remains candid and blatant when talking about the intertwined legal and social structures of America.

We learn at the end that *Blind Baseball* is 'folie en masse' (mass madness). It is a game of monstrosity favoring only one side. It appears to be true from Green's perspective.

Although, Green is redundant at times, especially with Sal's



faults and their effect on Barry, he provides a controversial novel that will enlighten men and women alike about the faults, injustices and inequalities of our legal system, as we know it.

Green earned a bachelor of science and master of arts from Eastern Michigan University and runs a successful independent general securities business in the Ann Arbor area. He is also president of A. Green Charity, a sponsor of youth baseball, the Santa Project and the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra.

ROBOT

FROM PAGE 9

building by crashing through a glass window and plunging many stories to the ground below. Spooner has reason to believe that the doctor's death was not a suicide. Not surprisingly, he thinks a robot might have been the culprit.

U.S. Robotics is owned by Lawrence Robinson (Bruce Greenwood). This rather complicated-looking building, which stands among the tallest skyscrapers in Chicago,

is equipped with VIKI, the brain for the robots, sort of like a C P U (Central Processing Unit) for a computer.

a human.

Spooner's response? "You know what they say: laws are made to be broken."

While Spooner is with Calvin, investigating Lanning's death, the pair comes across a unique robot. It was in the room when Lanning broke through the window and seems to be acting against one of the three laws. It flees, is captured, and then is released from police custody as the authorities have no proof. Spooner believes the machine could be Lanning's killer, but Calvin does not.



None of the robots have names — they are just the NS5s — but Spooner and Calvin come to believe that 'Sonny',

their name for the suspected robot, is unique because of all the human traits he appears to have that keep surfacing. Sonny says that he can dream and he feels angry at times — something that none of the other robots can do.

The thought of robots becoming more human coupled with the thought of them taking over the world has been a fear exploited in the sci-fi genre for years. And that is exactly where Spooner, Calvin — and even Lanning — take

viewers in this film.

Spooner is determined to figure out why Lanning died and to find clues to the reason Sonny is so unique, despite the overwhelming odds and danger

he faces.

On that level, it's a predictable film — the movie had typical action scenes and special effects, and plenty of them. Spooner's comic lines, and Smith's

delivery of them, were quite funny.

If science fiction equipped with a steady comic riff sounds like entertainment, this is a movie not to be missed.

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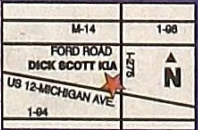
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THE SCENE

Time to POLKA



Big Daddy Lackowski and His La Dee Das'—Josh Lackowski on guitar, John Lackowski on keyboard and bass, Mark Lackowski on drums, Richard Kuciemba on saxophone and clarinet, Wolack on trumpet and Big Daddy Lackowski—have been together for more than 10 years and performing at the Polka Fest in Belleville for more than 5 years.

Andrea King
Staff Writer

When it comes to Polka music, these bands are no amateurs. Big Daddy Lackowski and His La Dee Das' Orchestra, along

This couple kept the dance floor alive Saturday at the Polka Fest at Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville. Everyone enjoyed popular polka bands Big Daddy Lackowski and His La Dee Das' and The Kielbasa Kings.

with The Kielbasa Kings, performed the latest and greatest in the polka genre at the Polka Fest at Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville last weekend. The bands, no strangers to the polka fest, welcomed their fans to stomp their feet and twirl around the dance floor during the 4-hour summer music fest.

Jack Wolack, trumpet player for Big Daddy Lackowski, said that the bottom line is—polka music is fun.

"We get all kinds of people who come out to see us," he said.

"It could be young, old, people who have problems or medical conditions. It doesn't matter what it is. They forget about any problems or pain and just have a great time."

"Polka makes people smile and puts people in a good mood. That's why I do it," said Big Daddy Lackowski. "It's got a snappy-happy rhythm to get people dancing and singing"

The Kielbasa Kings agree. They said that not only do they

See Polka, page 13



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THE SCENE



Polka

FROM PAGE 12

have a lot of fun playing, but it's also about keeping their heritage alive.

"A lot of us started playing polka with our parents when we were little," said band member Tim Pazdziora.

Lackowski himself also naturally fell into polka music. His family then followed.

"I started entertaining when I was 16," he said. "Since it is our family's ethnicity, it was pretty natural to play polka music. The whole family is involved musically in some sort of way."

The five members of Big Daddy Lackowski and His La Dee Das: Josh Lackowski on guitar, John Lackowski on keyboard and bass, Mark Lackowski on drums, Richard Kuciemba on saxophone and clarinet, Wolack on trumpet and Big Daddy Lackowski—have been together for more than 10 years and performing at the polka fest for more than 5 years.

"We do travel outside of Michigan, but we mostly remain here," said Wolack. "Our big performances are the Frankenmuth summer music fest and the Greentown Casino shows."

Upcoming events include performances at the St. Clair Concert in the Courtyard on Sunday, the Frankenmuth Cruisin Down the River on July 26 and Greentown Casino on July 30.

The five members of The Kielbasa Kings—Kevin Jakubowicz on accordion and vocals, Tom Gyuran on bass, Tim Pazdziora on trumpet, Justin Maniaci on clarinet and Paul Krywy on drums—were at first only going to be a one-time performance band.

"I threw a family picnic and for fun we put together a polka band to perform at it," said Jakubowicz. "We had such a great time that we kept the band."

The Kielbasa Kings have released three CDs—*Introducing The Kielbasa Kings*, *Fresh and Smoked* and *The Missing Link*—while Big Daddy Lackowski and His La Dee Das' have numerous recordings. Lackowski said that they keep the music alive by performing week-to-week, sometimes even day-by-day. They have

recorded 10 albums and several videos, and will have another video coming out soon.

Big Daddy Lackowski and His La Dee Das' big hit albums include *Polka Generations*, *One Day at a Time* and a polish wedding album. Lackowski also wrote their hit song *La Dee Da* in 1961, where the band name originated.

In the future, The Kielbasa Kings want to continue to proliferate old songs and also take on some new ones, said Jakubowicz.

"We have a passion for music that will keep us going for a few years," he said.

The Kielbasa Kings challenge anyone who doesn't know much about polka, to learn a little bit more.

"Polka is such a niche," said Jakubowicz.

"It has its followers and the people who do follow it are extremely loyal."

"Try it and try dancing to it," added Pazdziora. "You just have to have an open mind."

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The Kielbasa Kings—Kevin Jakubowicz on accordion and vocals, Tom Gyuran on bass, Tim Pazdziora on trumpet, Justin Maniaci on clarinet and Paul Krywy on drums—performed last weekend at the Polka Fest in Belleville for the fourth time.

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Local officers celebrate opening of K-9 school

Scott Spielman
Editor

Representatives from law enforcement agencies from all across the state traveled to Wayne last week to celebrate the opening of a new K-9 training facility in the city.

Terry Foley, a long-time member of the Wayne Police Department, said when he opened the training facility off Filbert Street, south of Michigan Avenue, it was the fulfillment of a long-time dream.

"When this facility was built, it was built for you, so the (K-9 officers) could do a better job for you," he told the assembled crowd last Wednesday.

Foley has been a K-9 handler for 17 years, the last 11 of which he's worked for the City of Wayne. He's a virtual legend in the field, having trained officers and their dogs for departments throughout

the state.

"He's a great guy," said Ofc. Timo Demers from Southgate. He and his German Shepherd partner, Apollo, were one of many teams in attendance. "He's done so much for us, and so much for the field. He does things without getting paid for it; you can tell it's what he loves to do."

The facility is designed for both police department dogs and for civilian training services, according to Foley. The two-level building contains a large open area on the first floor where dogs can practice their chasing and takedown maneuvers and an upstairs loft where they get training in the more delicate areas of their work.

There K-9 officers will find an obstacle course of a variety of items that may or may not have things hidden in them. The idea

is to have the dogs walk by and sniff them, and to teach them to find and recover various sorts of contraband, according to Ofc. Dan Foley of Wyandotte, no relation to Terry Foley. The dogs have to sift through things like car parts and filing cabinets. Different items are set up for dogs trained to sniff out explosives, because they require a different set of skills, according to Dan Foley.

They rely more on their noses than muzzles and claws to find illegal substances.

"We sure don't want the dogs to bite, scratch and claw at something that might be explosive," he said.

Members of the teams put on demonstrations throughout the opening celebration. Wayne officials said they were impressed with what the dogs could do.

"It's amazing the way they can go from nothing, to 100 percent and then back to nothing, just like that," said Wayne City Councilman Don Hartford, wincing in sympathy as an armor-padded officer was chased, captured, taken down and immobilized by a police dog.

"They are amazing animals," agreed Judge Laura Mack from the 29th District Court in Wayne.

Wayne Mayor Al Haidous said he appreciated the work Foley had done for the department, and his role in bringing the facility from Romulus to the city.

"We always like to have new businesses in town," he said.



The K-9 Academy has a large open space where dogs and their handlers can work on their take down techniques – providing they can find a volunteer to don the thick padding required to protect them.



Officer Rueben Vasquez from the Saginaw Police Department and his partner, Mohawk, look for contraband during a training session last week as Ofc. Dan Foley of Wyandotte talks about technique to the assembled crowd.



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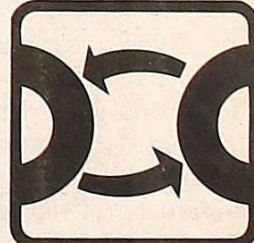
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BUSINESS

Before and after

Local restaurant completes total remodeling in 3½ days

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

What can you get for \$100,000 and three and a half days of blood, sweat and tears?

For Robert Costanza, the owner of Station 885 in Plymouth, the answer is a retro-style trendy new restaurant and bar.

Although it is the same Station 885 on the outside, the inside of the restaurant received a complete makeover from top to bottom, according to Costanza.

The vaulted ceilings and walls were painted. Carpet was ripped up and replaced with tiles. Even the coat rack was updated with a fresh coat of paint. The dated wallpaper was torn off and the walls are now washed in warm hip colors: bright greens and yellows. The roof went from a neutral beige color to a hot terra cotta.

The obtrusive hanging light fixtures were ousted and newer, sleeker ones rest in their places, each section of the restaurant actually has a different style of lighting but all flow together with the same streamlined look. The plastic tablecloths were discarded – along with the country-style chairs. Old booths went out one door as new ones came in another. Tables were resurfaced and new contemporary-style chairs were brought in to maintain the modern and clean look that Costanza and his team envisioned.

"It's like a fresh cut on a rose," Costanza said of the need for the makeover. "If it's not a fresh cut, it dies right away."

He may have a chance to smell the roses if the new look continues to catch on through the community like it has.

"They love it," he said of the customers that have come in since the renovation. He said that this is the first interior design

remodel in 12 years. Although Costanza played traffic controller to eight painters and 25-30 workers – not including family and employees – for the three and half days of around-the-clock work, he gives interior design credit to his mother, Joyce. She picked out the color scheme, the new trendy artwork and the light fixtures, he said.

The restaurant business is a family affair all the way around. Costanza's brother, Jerry, runs the family's award winning La Bistecca, also in Plymouth. La

Bistecca won an award as being a distinguished restaurant across America. Brother-in-law Nick Guerro, husband to Costanza's sister, Carla, runs Portafinos restaurant and bar in Wyandotte.

It was important that the remodeling was completed as quickly as possible, Costanza said. The 885 clan started on June 6 and everything was rapped up and ready by June 9. A big part of the success was the effort of family members and employees.

"In this business you can't afford to be closed down," he said. "I think of everyone here as family, and treat them as such."

Several of his employees have worked at 885 for 16 and even 20 years and, because of their dedication, he feels the renovation is a way to show his appreciation to them.

"This is a reinvestment in them," he said. "They feel like their jobs are secure and I hope that they'll want to stay for another 16 or 20 years."

The restaurant isn't the only thing getting a makeover this summer. Costanza said that they would offer a new menu that could be ready by the end of August. The new menu will consist healthier "heart smart" dishes along with some of the classic



Station 885 went from shabby (below) to chic (above) in record time as crews worked around the clock for three and a half days for the complete overhaul of the restaurant and bar.

favorites from the old menu, he said. However, he said, "what ever you want, we can make it. It doesn't have to be on the menu; 20-30 percent of the food that comes out of the kitchen isn't on the menu."

"People like to know they can get what they want," he added. "That's what we want to do give customers – exactly what they ask for and a little more."

The wine list has already changed. It has grown from a 35 to a 60-bottle selection, with moderate prices.

Although the interior has completely changed, Station 885 will still maintain a sense of railroad nostalgia. The classic mural survived the transition, as did the model train that runs around the ceiling by the bar. And the real trains will continue to meander along the tracks that run along that outside of the restaurant several times a day.

Entertainment, another classic trademark of Station 885, will also remain intact. Wally Gibson and Friends will continue to play on Wednesdays, which is also open-mic night. Sax player Ron Love joins Gibson on Fridays and Saturdays while the jazzy Greg Horn Trio plays on



Thursday nights.

The interior overhaul would be something that Costanza's father, the late Jerry Costanza, would have appreciated. He first opened the restaurant in 1985 but died a year and a half ago.

"He would have loved this," his son said. "He would have wanted change. He was here 19 years and we want to be around another 19."

The renovations were done in time to for the Costanza family to prepare for the Fun Fellowship and Golf outing in honor of their father. The event will take place on July 24 at Fox Hills-Golden Fox in Plymouth.

It will benefit the Jerry

Costanza Scholarship Fund at Schoolcraft College. Each year the fund, managed by Schoolcraft College Foundation, grant scholarships of as much as \$10,000 to students attending the Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts program. Costanza said that they would accept donations and golfers up until the day of the tournament.

"My father had a passion for this business," Costanza said. "When he walked into a room everyone was electrified by his presence. So we thought we should raise money to pay for a kid to do something my dad would have loved."



Robert Costanza stands in the remodeled version of the family-owned Plymouth hot spot. The Costanza family owns two other restaurants in the area, La Bistecca in Plymouth and Portafino's in Wyandotte.

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56. Garage Sales

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Garage Sale
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7/22-7/24 9-5
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Yard, Collectible,
Clothes, Etc.

Wayne
Garage Sale
4331 First
7/22-7/24 9-2
Coca Cola
Collectible, Misc.

57. Antiques

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I-75 S to Exit 27, turn right & go to Telegraph Rd
(or)
I-275 S to Exit 8, turn left onto Will Carleton Rd,
go to Telegraph Rd, turn right & go 1.5 miles

Wayne - 10 Family Garage Sale! 34521 Norris Street (next to Arby's) July 21st - July 24th 9 am to 5 pm.

Yard Sale
40761 South I-94
Service Drive
Just E. of Haggerty
July, 22nd, 23rd & 24th

59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 8/12/2004 at 11:00 AM at U-STORE-IT #401 28266 Ecorse RD, Romulus, MI, will sell at Public Sale by competitive bidding, the personal property heretofore stored with the undersigned by: James Evitts, C23: Sewing machine, speakers, loveseat, computer.

Reginald Looney, B7: TV set, foosball table, computer, exercise equipment.

Karen Harrison, D4: Bed, washer, dryer, refrigerator, love seat.
Shane Johnson, D22: Bed, sofa, dinning table, exercise equipment.
Vivian Parker, D12: Refrigerator, 30 totes, 10 boxes.
Flossie Reels, P13: 1987 Taurus Wagon.
Leonandra Evans, D53: Sofa, Stereo, loveseat, 7 bags.

AUTO AUCTION
Howard's Towing & Collision
35830 Van Born Rd.
Wayne, MI 48184
734-326-1114
June 29, 2004
Auction 1:00 p.m.
Vehicles Sold "AS IS"
Cash Only

1973 Winnebago
3324108228247
1988 Ford
1FTDF15Y9JLA99910
1991 Pontiac
1G2NG54U1MC587717
1992 Ford
1FMDA11U5NZA83767
1950 General Motors
No Vin
1994 Plymouth
1P3AP24KORN252595
1999 Ford
1FAFP53S2XG202135
1992 Mercury
1MECM50U5NG663255
1987 Plymouth
1P3BS44D7HN406072
1988 Dodge
2B6GB13X1JK151618
1989 Dodge
1B3BA46KXKF491572
1986 Dodge
2B6HB23T0GK521747
2001 Chrysler
1C3EL46XX1N623692
1995 Ford
1ZVLT20A5S5110554
1993 Ford
1FACP52U8PG101252

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
AUCTION

On July 27, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1998 Ford Escort
4 Door-Green
1FAFP13P0WW257174
1985 Mercury Marquis
4 Door-Blue
2MEBP95F8FX608153
1994 Dodge Intrepid
4 Door-Gray
1B3ED46TXRF174303
1988 Dodge Daytona
2 Door-Brown
1B3CA44K6JG391792
1996 Ford Windstar
SW-Red
2FMDA5145TBA21521
1996 Dodge Intrepid
4 Door-Black
2B3HD56F2TH211928
1992 Pontiac Granprix
4 Door-Red
1G2WH54T7NF312765

The second auction will begin promptly at 10:30a.m. at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1993 Ford Tempo
2 Door-Teal
1FAPP31X3PK178934

The third auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

2001 Ford Taurus
4 Door-White
1FAFP53231G233594
1991 Dodge Spirit
4 Door-White
1B3XA4632MF553368
1988 Ford Mustang
2 Door-Dk Gray
1FABP41E2JF253749
1990 Pontiac Grand Am
2 Door-Gray
1G2NW14D0LC354096
1991 Ford T-Bird
2 Door-Gray
1FAPP6045MH182341
1987 Chevrolet Cavalier
2 Door-Blue
1G1JC1110HJ261040

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF
AUCTION

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(Main St.) On Huron River Drive

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Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after AUGUST 21, 2004 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

1988 Ford F-250
Pickup Truck-White
2FTHF26H4JCA09241
1963 Chrysler 300
Convertible-Gray
8033216327
1989 Honda Prelude
2 Door-Black
JHMB44234KC002628

AUTO AUCTION
J & M TOWING
8964 Inkster Road
Romulus, MI 48174
(734)946-4101
July 28, 2004
@ 11:00 a.m.

1998 Freightliner
1FUVDSEB6WL502654
Truck 04-4645
1986 Pontiac Grand Am
1G2NE27U3GC686494
2 Door 04-5326
1996 Dodge Neon
1B3ES47CXTD591606
4 Door 04-5363
1991 Ford
1FAPP6040MH169982
2 Door 04-5421
1987 Plymouth
1P3BP39K2HF132194
Sta-Wagon 04-5436
1989 Pontiac
1G2AF51W5K6266282
4 Door 04-5538
1986 Jeep
1JTWE65F8GT088685
Pickup 04-5539
1997 Ford Cutaway Van
1FDLE40S4VHA37306
9920 Bus 04-5540
1994 Ford Club Wagon
1FBUS31H2RHA8073
Sta Wagon 04-5541
1990 Ford
1FTGS24HXLHB69811
Van 04-5543
1988 Ford
1FABP50U6JG119190
4 Door 04-5544
1987 Oldsmobile
1G3CW5135H4338466
4 Door 04-5552

1989 Chevrolet
1G1BN81Y0KR192315
4 Door 04-5572
1989 Dodge Spirit
1B3BA46KXKF467904
4 Door 04-5594
1982 Ford
1FABP20A3CK198807
2 Door 04-5685
1987 Oldsmobile
1G3CW5135H4338466
4 Door 04-5708
1985 Mercury
2MEBP95F4FX602172
4 Door 04-5711
1982 Dodge
1B6WW34T4CS226120
04-5719
1986 Pontiac
2G2AH19W3G9259922
4 Door 04-5765
1985 Dodge
2B7EK13C3FR347171
Van 04-5791
1988 GMC
1GDEG25K1J7541580

Sta-Wagon 04-5845
1982 Pontiac Firebird
1G2AX8714CL544649
2 Door 04-6036
1992 Chevrolet Blazer
1GNCT18Z2N0100418
Sta-Wagon 04-6079
1994 Mercury Cougar
1MELM6249RH642461
2 Door 04-6080
1985 Chevrolet
1GBEG25HXF7140301
Sta-Wagon 04-6277
1991 GMC
1GTDT19Z9M2549304
Truck 04-6279
1988 Lincoln
1LNBM81F3JY855840
4 Door 04-6363

AUTO AUCTION
J & T Crova Towing
36573 Grant St.
Romulus, MI 48174
734-941-0221
July 28th, 2004
9:00 AM

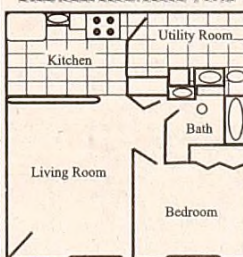
1991 Eagle
4E3CT64U9ME003565
2 Door 04-4626
1987 Ford
1FAPP2196HW313328
2 Door 04-5450
1992 Ford Econoline
1G1AP87H9BL135515
2 Door 04-5721
1990 Honda
1HGCB7649LA112368
4 Door 04-5933
1989 Toyota Corolla
1NXAE92E8KZ012925
4 Door 04-6038
1985 Pontiac Parisienne
1G2BL69H0FX212848
4 Door 04-6230
1992 Chevrolet Camaro
1G1FP23E3NL143502
2 Door 04-6231
1992 Chevrolet
2G1WP14X9N9152268
2 Door 04-6232
1987 Oldsmobile
2G3AJ51R3H9303903
4 Door 04-6236
1993 Ford Tempo
1FAPP31X5PK189112
2 Door 04-6237
1988 Dodge Caravan
1B4FK5037JX302001
Sta-Wagon 04-6293
1992 Ford
1ZVPT21U2N5189096
2 Door 04-6367

1991 Geo
J81RF2363M7524057
2 Door 04-6368
1990 Dodge
1B4FK44R0LX134844
Sta-Wagon 04-6492
1990 Oldsmobile
2G3AJ54NXL2371741
4 Door 04-6493
1976 Ford
6G21H186832
2 Door 04-6495

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106. Houses For Sale

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ANNIVERSARY



Bill and Betty Luke

50th wedding anniversary celebrated

Bill and Betty Luke of Canton Township celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently with a family celebration.

The couple was married in Milwaukee, WI on June 5, 1954 and have made their home in Canton for nearly 30 years.

Their family gathered at Cascades Manor in Jackson to honor their 50th anniversary.

The couple have been retired for 17 years. They volunteer at Somerset Beach Campground and are active in the Westland Free Methodist Church.

They have five sons, Dave (Cindy) Luke of Jerome, Dan (Kathy) Luke of Somerset, Don (Annette) of Canton, Dale (Dianna) of Saline and Jeff (Karen) of Wayne and 18 grandchildren.

Mountain hideaway touches the soul

Like a dying ember in a campfire catching a breeze, my love for the great American old west rekindled. It was seeing video of former President Ronald Reagan's ranch that triggered it.

Closing my eyes, I drifted back to days at the Bellota (Bay-oh-tah) Ranch high in the mountains east of Tucson, AZ. It'd been a journey to the old west, of cowboys and the wind whispering a lullaby as I walked by the mesquite rail fence.

Nestled between the Ricon and Santa Catalina Mountains some 5,000 feet high and an hour's drive up 15 miles of twists and turns in a 4-wheeler is where you step into a pretty much-unchanged world that began in 1890. Lem and Harry Redfield settled here that year, built a small adobe ranch house, and went to work raising cattle.

In 1931, the original house was remodeled and a wing was added, all built around a courtyard complete with fountain.

In 1999, Bob Cote, owner of the Tanque Verde guest ranch bought this chunk of paradise.

And 112 years later, on a cool, quiet January evening, I sat on a hill watching a surreal vista of a sky aflame in profound reds and purples merged with white jet vapor trails crisscrossing the sky.

The vapor trails were the only reminder it was the 21st century.

I imagined the Redfield brothers on this very hill, long before television, way before radio. Harry points at the evening star growing brighter by the moment.

"Makes me wanna' make a wish," Lem says.

"Yup, sure does," Harry answers.

"Don't know what ya'd wish for though, since we got heaven right here."

Sitting next to the swimming pool—creatively constructed by lopping off the top half of a huge water storage tank—I enjoyed a peaceful, easy feeling.

We'd ridden that day for hours, high into the mountains atop surefooted horses that traversed precarious rocky trails.

A swim and nap after lunch followed by a hike in the foothills had primed us for the feedbag. Dinner had been filling: the stories pleasing.

Lying in bed listening to the symphony of the high desert night creatures, I dozed to a coyote's call, thinking that with just eight rooms, the marvelously secluded Bellota Ranch would be a perfect place for family to stay. Or, a movie star to rent the entire ranch for him or

her and friends to hide out.

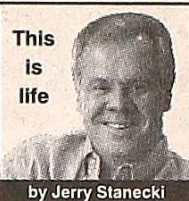
I decided to make a point to return, to be a real cowboy.

For here at Bellota, guests can come for authentic cattle roundups four or five times a year. Saddle your own horse, herd and brand cattle, and yip n' holler, "Get 'em up little doggie,"

About midnight something woke me.

Stepping onto the patio I came upon a sight no city slicker could ever see. Two zillion and two stars, deeply in sync filled the heavens. This was spirituality western style.

The power of it all humbled me, and I realized we are all but a mere speck of dust, on the head of a pin in God's magnificent universe.



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